Concorde Puts Roar Into Babel of Beirut

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BEIRUT, June 30—The Lebanese capital, which has a richly deserved reputation for being one of the world's noisiest cities, had its daily pandemonium overtrumped today by the eardrum rattling arrival of the Concorde supersonic airliner.

The plane's swoop over the city center was enough to shatter confidence in recent statements that the Concorde's noise level is little higher than that of other large jetliners. A few minutes in its flight path left people on the street rubbing their ears.

The roar of the British-built prototype, now on a demonstration trip through the Middle East, pushed ahead of the Middle East's busiest airport, and 707 and 747s bursting in from the sea. People stood immobilized for minutes.

Beirut's small city center is in the final approach route of the Middle East's busiest airport, and 707s adn 747s thunder overhead day and night. Adding to the city's remarkable auditory pollution are a distinctive and constant beeping of horns, shouts of street peddlers, and a Lebanese propensity for not speaking softly when it can be avoided.